Daily Report
Soviet Union

FBIS-SOV-89-169 *1 September 1989*

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Batsanov Addresses Disarmament Conference Session

LD3108224689 Moscow TASS in English 2214 GMT 31 Aug 89

[Text] Geneva September 1 TASS—Sergey Batsanov, representative of the USSR, addressed a final plenary session of the Conference on Disarmament on behalf on the socialist countries' group.

Evaluating the conference's efforts made in the spring and summer period of 1989, he pointed out that the results of what was achieved can hardly be appraised only in one way.

One has to admit the lack of real progress on a number of points on an agenda, such as a nuclear test ban and the prevention of an arms race in outer space. Nevertheless a tangible headway has been achieved in such key field as a ban on chemical weapons, he said.

The leader of the Soviet delegation emphasised that the political will of negotiators and their striving for a search for mutually acceptable solutions still remained the principal motive force of negotiations despite the complex nature of disarmament issues, real technical, international legal and other difficulties in the elaboration of agreements on disarmament.

Conference Session Ends

LD3108182889 Moscow TASS in English 1820 GMT 31 Aug 89

[Text] Geneva August 31 TASS—The spring-summer session of the Disarmament Conference ended at the Geneva Palace of Nations today. It had discussed the preparation of a multilateral convention on banning and eliminating all chemical weapons, as well as questons of a nuclear test ban, nuclear disarmament, the prevention of the arms race in outer space and the elaboration of a comprehensive disarmament program.

B-2 Program Timing, Aims Questioned

LD3108150689 Moscow in English to North America 0100 GMT 31 Aug 89

[Vladislav Kozyakov commentary]

[Excerpts] When Congress is back in session early next month, one of its debates will concern the B-2 bomber program. Vladislav Kozyakov comments on the issue:

Building a new strategic Stealth B-2 bomber has caused considerable controversy in congress over its high cost. [passage omitted] But a still more important issue is the possible effects of the B-2 bomber on international security. That concerns not only the Americans, it affects the interests of other nations, for the bomber is designed to penetrate other country's airspace undetected by radar. (?Their) design is far from senseless: The B-2 is clearly a weapon for a first nuclear strike. [Words indistinct] the military experts to know that getting past foreign radar has nothing to do with defense. [passage omitted]

Why should the United States build a strategic bomber far exceeding defensive purposes now? Why start its production now that the Soviet Union and the United States have embarked on the road of strategic arms reductions? The fact is that while American representatives in Geneva are negotiating a 50 percent reduction of strategic weapons, including bombers, the U.S. Administration is requesting that Congress allocate billions of dollars for a first-strike plane. Where is the logic?

This also poses the question of trust and openness. The B-2 program has been developed for 8 years in secret. The Pentagon has spent $22.5 billion on it without Congress or rank-and-file Americans knowing anything about it. Now that the plane has been built, the fact is presented to Congress and the public. But there can be no genuine trust between our countries without openness in such matters. Trust is not a one-way street.

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Military Inspection Team Arrives in West Germany

LD1109114589 Moscow TASS in English 1138 GMT 11 Sep 89

[Text] Moscow September 11 TASS—A team of Soviet military experts arrived in West Germany today for an on-site inspection of West German military activity.

Prior to that, on September 9, the Soviet Government submitted an official request to carry out the inspection, in keeping with the document of the Stockholm conference on confidence building measures, security and disarmament in Europe.

West Germans gave their go-ahead and allowed the inspectors in.

Officials Voice Reaction to NATO Exercises

Defense Ministry Notes 'Anxiety'

LD1109191489 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1700 GMT 11 Sep 89

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] It is noted in the USSR Defense Ministry with particular anxiety that at the beginning of September the territory of the European NATO countries was transformed by the NATO top brass into a military testing ground. Throughout the whole area, from northern Norway to the eastern borders of Turkey, from Gibraltar to the Elbe, and also in the adjacent waters of the Atlantic, about 20 large-scale general-troop, aviation, and naval exercises began virtually simultaneously.

In the scale and nature of tasks being carried out, they are hard to distinguish from the deployment of strike groupings close to the state borders of the socialist countries for practical [realnyye] combat operations. This activity is in evident conflict with the positive trends in relations between NATO and the Warsaw Pact which have occurred in recent years and does not help to promote strengthening trust between countries and peoples.

General Moiseyev Cited

LD1209121389 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1120 GMT 12 Sep 89

[Text] Moscow, 12 Sep (TASS)—"The excessive activity of the armed forces of the member states of the North Atlantic alliance runs counter to statements by its military and political leadership concerning NATO's adherence to the cause of strengthening peace and universal security and the defensive nature of its military doctrine," Army General Mikhail Moiseyev, Chief of General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces, said in an interview with TASS correspondent Oleg Moskovskiy in connection with the start of NATO's major combined forces, airforce, and naval exercises.

In General Moiseyev's opinion, the Autumn Forge-89 exercises, which are noteworthy for the great scope of tasks being dealt with, are difficult to distinguish from the deployment of strike forces on the borders of the socialist countries for real combat action. "This kind of exercise," he stressed, "clearly contradicts the positive breakthroughs in relations between NATO and the Warsaw Pact which have happened in recent years. Holding them is not promoting the strengthening of trust between countries and peoples."

To back up his words, General Moiseyev said that in the active phase of the exercises, which started on 11 September, the crews of 14 B-52 bombers deployed from mainland United States to Europe would start working through tasks concerned with dominating the combat theater. The general added that over the past few days 13 B-52 aircraft have made flights in the areas of the North-East Atlantic, the Mediterranean, and test sites in the Netherlands and the FRG. "In the past few days there have been troop movements into their designated operational areas in the Central European combat theater in accordance with the plan for the Caravan Guard-89 exercises," he stressed.

In General Moiseyev's words, these exercises are precisely enough typical of the approach of influential forces in NATO to the military aspects of East-West relations. "On one hand they are looking for any way of making the Warsaw Pact states disarm as much as possible," he said, "while on the other they are trying not only to keep NATO's mighty military potential, but to continue to build it up."

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